Handloom Societies

6686. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handloom societies working in Maharashtra at present;

(b) the amount of financial assistance provided to these societies by the Government during the last two years; and

(c) the schemes under which the said assistance is being provided to the above societies and the details of the guidelines issued in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) At present 1755 Handloom Cooperative Societies are functioning in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) During the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 financial assistance of Rs. 9.18 crores and Rs. 4.27 crores has been provided under the following Handloom schemes :-

Project Package, Integrated Handloom Village Development, Hank Yarn Price Subsidy, Janata Cloth, Health Package, Handloom Development Centre, Market Development Assistance, Margin Money for Destitute Weaver, Workshed-cum-Housing and Jute Handloom Development Centre Scheme.

The pattern of financial assistance varies from scheme to scheme.

Trade with China

6687. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the two-way trade between India and China in 1996 was increased by 20.9 per cent in comparison to 1995;

(b) If so, whether India-China economic relations has decided to launch and Industrial and Technical Exhibition of India in Beijing;

(c) if so, whether the China Science and Technology Centre and Wisitex Foundation of India are jointly organising the exhibition;

(d) if so, whether his Ministry has allowed the exhibition as a joint step to boost trade and industrial relations between the two countries; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the Indo-China trade during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The steps proposed to improve Indo-China trade during 1997-98 include holding of meeting of Indo-China Joint Economic Group on Economic Relations, trade, Science & Technology; increased participation in Trade Fairs to increase awareness in both countries and exposure of India's and China's technological capabilities to each others' traders; identification of items, technologies and sectors with scope for furthering exports and initiating appropriate policy initiatives, and disseminating information about China's import requirements to our exporters and vice versa.

[Translation]

Export of Oil Seeds

6688. SHRI NITISH KUMAR :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total-quantity of oil seeds exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether oil seeds have also been imported during the above period;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the total quantity of oil seeds imported and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) the estimated quantum of oil seeds likely to be exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of Oilseeds exported and imported during the last three years are as follows :-

Quantity : in MTs.

Value : In Rs. Crores

Year	Export		Import	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
1993-94	297907	263.49	4868	6.98
1994-95	1209698	256.41	4745	5.35
1995-96	228962	524.52	33249	36.17
1996-97 (April-Sept.,'96)	84033	186.72	232	0.95

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of imports and exports are given in the monthly bulletin/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Under the EXIM Policy, 1992-97, imports of oilseeds were canalised through the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited. However, imports of oilseeds in a limited quantity have been made by the 100% EOUs and under the Duty Exemption Scheme mainly with the purpose of export of oilmeals manufactured out of the imported oilseeds.

(d) The export projections for the Ninth Five Year Plan including the year 1997-98 have not been formulated.

[English]

Import of Coffee to Contain Prices in Domestic Market

6689. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :
SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govenment are aware that the retail, price of coffee seeds/powder has gone up in the country particularly in Karnataka and Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to import coffee to contain prices in the domestic market;

(d) if so, the total quantity proposed to be imported;

(e) whether there is any proposal to bring coffee under Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, whether the Government propose to procure some quantity of coffee seeds from the planters compulsorily for supply to the Coffee Board;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the steps proposed to be taken by the Coffee Board to bring down coffee prices in the domestic market and supply coffee seeds powder through PDS to the general public in the country particularly in above States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to the rise in the prices of coffee in the international market, domestic prices of coffee seeds/ powder have also increased throughout the country.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) to (i) With the introduction of 100% Free Sale Quota to the Planters, at present there is no proposal to procure coffee seeds from the growers. Although Coffee Board continues to supply limited quantities of popular blends through its promotional outlets, the Board can not undertake the responsibility to supply coffee through the Public Distribution system.

Trade with Pakistan

6690. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of exports and imports between India and Pakistan made during 1996-97 upto March, 31, 1997 in comparison to each of the last three years, separately;

(b) whether there has been any decline in the foreign trade;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;